

# ECOSOC Partnership Forum 2023 - Side Event Concept Note

## Title:

***Addressing the challenges of climate-induced human mobility in SIDS through effective partnerships, in a context of recovery from COVID-19***

## Time & Date:

**1:15 pm to 2:30pm EST, New York time on Tuesday, 31 January 2023**

**The event will occur in hybrid format, with in-person panelists and participants at UN HQ in New York (Conference Room 5), as well as virtual participation and video statements.**

## Background and Context

Sudden and slow-onset disasters are challenging the human security of SIDS, including culture, identity, health and livelihoods. Environmental hazards are already directly and indirectly driving climate-related mobility, with larger movement of communities on the horizon if action is not taken. Many of these challenges have been impacted by COVID-19.

SIDS are at the forefront of innovative and sustainable solutions grounded in local knowledge and vast experience in overcoming and planning for continuous shocks. Across the Caribbean and the Pacific, governments, development partners and the UN are pioneering initiatives to address climate disasters and mobility which serves to avoid worst case scenarios particularly for vulnerable groups.

On the one hand, challenges remain as the level of international engagement and financial support on climate security in SIDS has been inadequate and inconsistent. On the other hand, practices on the ground have proved that strong partnerships are crucial to comprehensively address the challenges of climate-induced human mobility in the SIDS context. It is imperative that all stakeholders join efforts in a complementary and holistic manner to ensure most vulnerable segments of the society are prioritized.

## Objective

This event will showcase concrete examples of successful partnerships in this area, as well as encourage additional support for existing collaborations and stimulate new alliances to address possible gaps. It will feature presentations of various challenges faced and efforts advanced by the SIDS governments, CSO and local communities, as well as UN agencies in the Pacific and the Caribbean<sup>1</sup>. It will also share an update on the progress achieved in the development of regional frameworks and cooperation efforts on climate mobility. By convening representatives from national governments, inter-governmental entities, and potentially civil society, youth, private sector and/or local community representatives from SIDS joining in virtually, the event aims to serve as a platform for an open, multi-stakeholder dialogue to share 'voices from the ground' and exchange experiences and learnings from diverse perspectives.

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<sup>1</sup> Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security programme (PCCM-HS) is led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD); Eastern Caribbean Climate Migration and Human Security programme (ECCMHS) is led by IOM in partnership with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the UN Resident Coordination Office, the PDD and the UNFCCC.

## Programme of the event

- 13:15-13:20 Welcome remarks Mr Pär Liljert, Director, International Organization for Migration - Office to the United Nations
- 13:20-13:35 Opening remarks Ambassador Ana Paula Zacarias, Permanent Representative of Portugal to the UN - Co-chair of the Steering Committee for SIDS Partnerships
- Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
- Mr António Vitorino, Director General, International Organization for Migration
- Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- 13:35-14:05 Panel discussion: *“Addressing the challenges of climate-related human mobility in SIDS through effective partnerships, in a context of recovery from COVID-19”*
- Guiding questions
- What are the key roles of civil society in promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships for climate-related human mobility?
  - How is your region responding to the challenges of climate-related human mobility, including displacement?
  - What do you think are key to successful partnerships in addressing climate-related human mobility?
- Speakers
- Ms Frances Namoumou, Ecumenical animator for Ecological Stewardship and Climate Justice
  - Ms. Matilda Bartley, Deputy Permanent Representative/Counselor, Permanent Mission of Samoa to the United Nations
  - Ambassador Francine Baron, Chief Executive Officer of the Climate Resilience Execution Agency for Dominica (CREAD)
- 14:05-14:25 Open discussion
- 14:25-14:30 Closing remarks Ms. Matilda Bartley, Deputy Permanent Representative/Counselor, Permanent Mission of Samoa to the United Nations - Co-chair of the Steering Committee for SIDS Partnerships